Extra Coaches for Purushottam Express

*370. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Khurda Division to attach two more coaches to Purushottam Express;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in taking action on the request; and

(c) by when the extra coaches are likely to be attached to Purushottam Express?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) do not arise.

River conservation projects in Madhya Pradesh

†*371. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of projects of Madhya Pradesh under National River Conservation Scheme, pending for clearance with the Central Government;

(b) what are the details of Government's under Sewage Treatment Plant Scheme, to prevent pollution caused by the Betwa river in Mandideep town and areas around Bhojpur; and

(c) by when the proposed scheme would be cleared by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) A total of 78 projects have been received. Out of these, 57 have been sanctioned so far. The remaining 21 schemes are at the following locations namely; Indor, Burhanpur, Ujjain, Nagda, Bhopal, Vidisha, Mandideep, Jabalpur, Seoni, Chapara and Keolari.

(b) and (c) Initially, there was a provision for a sewage treatment

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

plant for Mandideep town under the National River Conservation Plan for cleaning of river Betwa. However, based on a survey of the area, the State Government informed in August, 2001, that except during monsoon period, municipal sewage of the town does not reach the river and as such there is no pollution of the river at Mandideep on account of municipal sewage. The scheme was therefore, dropped. There was no proposal in respect of Bhojpur.

Hyderabad-Bangalore and Chennai-Bangalore Rail Corridors

*372. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for development of high speed rail transport corridors between Hyderabad-Bangalore and Chennai-Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects and the pattern of funding for the projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Drought Hit Districts

*373. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of districts in the country affected by drought during the year 2001-2002; and

(b) the measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the report of the India Meteorological Department, 132 Districts received deficient rainfall as detailed in the Statement (See below). Drought is determined and declared by the State/Union Territory concerned in accordance with Scarcity Manual or laid down policy of the Government